

**Minutes
State Board of Education Meeting
Friday, June 12, 2015**

The State Board of Education met Friday, June 12, 2015, in the Pulaski County Special School District Administration Building. Chairman Sam Ledbetter called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Present: Sam Ledbetter, Chairman; Toyce Newton, Vice-Chair; Alice Mahony; Dr. Jay Barth; Diane Zook; Joe Black; Vicki Saviers; Kim Davis; Mireya Reith; Jonathan Crossley, Teacher of the Year; and Johnny Key, Commissioner.

Absent: none

Reports

Chair's Report

Mr. Davis shared a video from the Springdale Public School District School of Innovation.

Ms. Zook attended the Northwest Arkansas Education Service Co-op meeting and business partners shared the current needs of employers.

Ms. Reith said the NASBE Career Education Working Group is mirroring the innovations happening in Northwest Arkansas schools.

Mr. Crossley thanked the Board Members for their support of the Arkansas Teacher of the Year. He introduced Ms. Quida Newton, 2015 Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Key said Mr. Anthony Owen would be the Computer Science Coordinator, effective July 1. Commissioner Key said the Department has received several grant applications and professional development would be available this summer. He said computer science courses are ready. He said more information about Computer Science was available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction/computer-science>.

Commissioner Key said the upgrade to APSCN would provide upgrade broadband to schools. He said 125 districts would be using the upgraded system

next school year. He said during the next two years all schools will be served. He recognized Ms. Susan Harriman and Ms. Brittany Kincaid for their dedication to this project.

Recognition of Ms. Dorothy Gillam

Commissioner Key said Ms. Dorothy Gillam celebrated 50 years as an employee of the Arkansas Department of Education. She has worked with 18 Commissioners of Education during her tenure. Commissioner Key shared a letter from Mr. Ray Simon.

UCA President Mr. Tom Courtway, Dr. Ken James, Dr. Diana Julian, and Commissioner Key provided stories and appreciation for Ms. Gillam for her contributions to the Arkansas Department of Education.

Commissioner Key presented Ms. Gillam with citations from the Senate and House of Representatives, a letter from the State Board, and a letter from Governor Asa Hutchison. Commissioner Key and Assistant Commissioner Ms. Ivy Pfeffer presented a diamond ADE pin to Ms. Gillam.

Ms. Gillam expressed her appreciation to the speakers, the agency, and the audience.

Recognition of Mrs. Joyce L. Vaught

Ms. Newton said Mrs. Joyce L. Vaught, Superintendent of Lakeside School District in Lake Village, has been an educator for 69 years and was retiring June 2015.

Lakeside School District Assistant Superintendent Mr. Billy Adams shared a video that chronicled Ms. Vaught's history as an educator.

Ms. Newton presented Ms. Vaught with citations from the Senate and House of Representatives and a letter from the State Board.

Ms. Vaught expressed her appreciation and shared a few stories and recommendations from her experience.

Update on ForwARd Report

ForwARd Managing Director Mr. Jared Henderson said ForwARd is a strategic partnership of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Walton Family Foundation and Arkansas Board of Education that aims to prepare all Arkansas students for success in college and the workplace. He said to accomplish the vision,

ForwARd is creating a holistic plan for P-16 education in Arkansas, with specific recommendations for academically distressed schools and school districts. He said the ForwARd steering committee has conducted significant research, input gathering and stakeholder engagement to help craft its plan and lay the groundwork for implementation of its recommendations. The recommendations for supporting turnaround of schools in academic distress span several categories including process, supports, interventions, evaluations, community and capacity. He said the work will begin with three specific recommendations: establish a comprehensive evaluation and ongoing evaluation process; build state/ADE capacity to turnaround academic distress schools; and build a turnaround academy to attract and develop turnaround talent. The implementation-working group will identify the next phase of the work and Dr. David Raney will chair the committee.

Arkansas Educator Preparation Performance Report

Assistant Commissioner for Human Resources, Educator Effectiveness, and Licensure Ms. Ivy Pfeffer said Dr. Frank Servedio has organized the data for the second annual Educator Preparation Performance Report (EPPR). She said the report should guide data informed decision-making for collaboration between the Department and university educator preparation programs.

Update on Content Standards and Assessment

Schools of Innovation

Assistant Commissioner for Learning Services Dr. Debbie Jones said Act 601 of 2013 allowed schools to apply for approval to be a School of Innovation; in turn, receiving flexibility from certain standards to allow for innovative educational approaches. She said ten schools applied to be recognized as Schools of Innovation for the 2015-2016 school year and the Commissioner approved four applications. She said the following schools are recognized as 2015-2016 Schools of Innovation, will be designated for a period of four years and may be renewed thereafter at the Commissioner's discretion: Fayetteville High East ALE; White County Central Elementary School; Bentonville Cooper Elementary; and Springdale Sonora Middle School.

Health Services

Dr. Jones said the State employs a State School Nurse Consultant as a result of Act 1220 of 2003 and is supported with the State's Tobacco Master Settlement monies received by the Arkansas Department of Health. This position is a shared position between the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and the Arkansas Department of Health, as required by Act 1220. She said the State Legislature passed Act 414 of 2013 to create the Public School Health Services Advisory Committee to survey the health needs of student in Arkansas.

ADE Special Education Unit

Dr. Jones said the ADE Special Education Unit (SEU) would be changing the process by which districts submit their Local Application for Part B funds and the process by which ADE reviews and approves the Local Applications.

Professional Development

Dr. Jones said many Science professional development opportunities would be available this summer. She said the ADE Literacy Unit in collaboration with committees of literacy specialists from the education service cooperatives have developed several new professional learning opportunities for Arkansas educators to be offered this summer, including continued work in Understanding by Design (UBD).

ADE Guidance and School Counseling

Dr. Jones said the Arkansas School Counseling Association (ArSCA) and ADE Summer Conference would be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center in July.

2014 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Report

Mr. Crossley shared a third video in the Teacher Leader series. The video focused on the work of the Arkansas Leadership Academy and the efforts to support teacher leaders.

Mr. Crossley presented the annual Arkansas Teacher of the Year presentation regarding professional development in the state. His report, *Autonomy, Mastery and Purpose*, highlighted the opportunities that each school can utilize to support action research that promotes educator excellence. The full report is available on the ADE website at <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/teacher-of-the-year>.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Deborah Coffman.



Toyce Newton, Chair



Johnny Key, Commissioner of Ed.